

combination, do not disclose or suggest a control unit that monitors transmission/reception status of the packets at the at least one network printer that has joined the multicast address and that, based on monitoring results, controls transmission of packets to, waiting for packets from, and retransmission of packets to the predetermined multicast address, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 26 and 35.

Cox discloses assigning printers to scanners connected to a network. See Fig. 3, and col. 2, line 43 – col. 3, line 10. Cox discloses dynamically grouping and regrouping a plurality of printers to be used with a specific scanner. See Figs. 4A and 4B; and col. 3, lines 14-56. Cox also discloses that each printer confirms receipt of data/pages by sending a confirmation packet to a scanner. See col. 2, lines 64-67.

However, Cox does not disclose or suggest retransmission based on the confirmation packet sent from a printer. Therefore, Cox does not disclose or suggest a control unit that monitors transmission/reception status of the packets at the at least one network printer that has joined the multicast address and that, based on monitoring results, controls transmission of packets to, waiting for packets from, and retransmission of packets to the predetermined multicast address, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 26 and 35.

Allan discloses client- and server-based applications for devices on a home network connected to the Internet through a single Internet address. See col. 2, lines 26-30. Allan does not disclose or suggest retransmission of packets based on monitoring results, as recited in claims 1, 26 and 35. Therefore, Allan does not supply the subject matter lacking in Cox.

For at least the above reasons, Cox and Allan, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 26 and 35.

B. Cox and Allan Do not Disclose or Suggest
the Subject Matter of the Dependent Claims

As a preliminary matter, the Office Action fails to provide a prima facie case of obviousness regarding claims 2-19 and 26-35. In particular, the Office Action only conclusively states that the combination of Cox and Allan teaches similar scopes to claims 2-19 and 26-31. This is an improper rejection according to MPEP §2141. Specifically, the Examiner bears the burden to properly communicate the basis for rejection (see MPEP §2142). Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to establish a prima facie case for rejecting each of claims 2-19 and 26-35.

In any event, it is respectfully submitted that Cox and Allan, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 2-19 and 26-35.

For example, regarding claim 2, Cox only discloses grouping and regrouping printers, as discussed above. Cox does not disclose or suggest detecting whether a printer that is capable of joining a multicast address, as recited in claim 2. Therefore, Cox does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 2.

Allan discloses client- and server-based applications for devices on a home network connected to the Internet through a single Internet address, as discussed above. Allan does not disclose or suggest detecting whether a printer that is capable of joining a multicast address, as recited in claim 2. Therefore, Allan does not supply the subject matter lacking in Cox. Hence, Cox and Allan, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 2.

Regarding claims 6, 9 and 27, Cox only discloses sending a confirmation packet from a printer to a scanner, as discussed above. Cox does not disclose or suggest a retransmission unit that retransmits packets when the control unit does not receive within a certain duration of time an acknowledgement response, as recited in claim 6; a retransmission unit that, when

the printing completion judgment unit judges that the network printer has not completely printed out the print data, retransmits print data transmitted by the transmission unit, as recited in claim 9; or retransmitting the print data when the print data is not completely printed after a time period elapses after transmitting the packet of print data, as recited in claim 27.

Allan does not disclose or suggest retransmission of packets based on monitoring results, such as no receipt within certain duration of time, or an incomplete printing. Therefore, Allan does not supply the subject matter lacking in Cox. Hence, Cox and Allan, either individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 6, 9 and 27.

It is also respectfully submitted that claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10-19 and 28-34 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 1, 26 and 35, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-19 and 26-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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